

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-08 ARA-06

EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1448

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERSUALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5937

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, XF

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST DEBATE IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. SUMMARY: PLENARY DEBATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST CONTINUED DEC 6 WITH 15 SPEAKERS INCLUDING USSR, CANADA, AND LEBANON. DEBATE IS SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE DEC 7 AND 8 WITH APPROXIMATELY 40 SPEAKERS INSCRIBED. US IS NOW INSCRIBED TO SPEAK WEDNESDAY, DEC 8. VOTING IS NOT EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE DEC 9. NONALIGNED RESOLUTIONS (USUN 5861) WERE INTRODUCED IN AFTERNOON AS WERE NONALIGNED (EGYPTIAN) AMENDMENTS TO THE ISRAELI DRAFT RESOLUTION (SEPTTEL). EC-9 PLANS TO MEET DEC 7 TO CONSIDER EC-9 POSITION ON ISRAELI DRAFT RESOLUTION AND AMENDMENTS; EARLY READING SUGGESTS EC-9 MAY AGREE ON COMMON POSITION OF ABSTENTION. END SUMMARY.

2. MORNING PLENARY ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION DEC 6 HEARD STATEMENTS BY USSR, YEMEN, GDR, BAHRAIN, BULGARIA, AND CANADA. IN REVIEWING SECURITY COUNCIL ACTIVITY RE ME DURING 1976 AND SYG'S INITIATIVE, USSR REITERATED BASIC SOVIET POSITION. HE
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RESTATED WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN GUARANTEES OF SECURE

BORDERS, UNDER UN OR OTHER ARRANGEMENTS, AND THOUGHT WAYS SHOULD BE FOUND TO END ARMS RACE IN ME IN CONNECTION WITH OVERALL SETTLEMENT. HE FAVORED PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA AND SUGGESTED A PREPARATORY STAGE AND SUBSTANTIVE STAGE OF THE CONFERENCE. HE APPEALED TO SYG TO ASK CO-CHAIRMAN OF GENEVA CONFERENCE TO CONSULT THE PARTIES IMMEDIATELY WITH A VIEW TOWARD IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF CONFERENCE. GDR AND BULGARIAN REPS SPOKE ON SIMILAR LINES. YEMEN AND BAHRAIN ASSAILED ISRAEL FOR OCCUPATION AND "ANNEXATION" POLICIES AND EMPHASIZED PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AND PARTICIPATION IN PEACE EFFORTS. YEMEN QUOTED 1956 EISENHOWER STATEMENT IN OPPOSING ISRAELI OCCUPATION AND ACQUISITION OF TERRITORY BY FORCE.

3. CANADA (STANBURY) THOUGHT TIME WAS OPPORTUNE FOR RE-ACTIVATION OF COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD A FINAL SETTLEMENT. DIFFICULTIES NOW WERE LARGELY PROCEDURAL, HE SAID, BUT THEY CLOAKED DEEPLY FELT ASPIRATIONS AND APPREHENSIONS. MAIN OBSTACLES WERE DIFFICULTY OF ARRANGING EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN NEGOTIATIONS AND NEED FOR UNEQUIVOCAL ACCEPTANCE BY ALL PARTIES OF ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE AS SOVERIGN, INDEPENDENT STATE. IN URGING CONCESSIONS NOW, THOUGHT THERE WAS NO BASIS FOR SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH CLEAR UNDERSTANDING ON THESE TWO POINTS. MOREOVER, RESOLUTION 242 SHOULD NOT BE TAMPERED WITH OR DISTORTED. GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS NOT ONLY CONCEIVABLE FORUM FOR NEGOTIATIONS, HE NOTED, BUT IT IS IN BEING AND HE URGED ITS USE RATHER THAN ATTEMPT TO RECONSTRUCT IT.

4. AFTERNOON SESSION OPENED WITH ISRAELI AMB HERZOG INTRODUCING ISRAEL'S DRAFT RESOLUTION (USUN 5911). HERZOG NOTED THAT THIS WAS FIRST DRAFT RESOLUTION EVER INTRODUCED BY ISRAEL IN THE GA. HE NOTED THAT ISRAEL FEELS RENEWAL OF EFFORTS TO MOVE MIDDLE EAST TOWARD PEACE COULD HAPPEN TODAY, BUT QUERIED RHETORICALLY WHETHER THE TRUE ARAB VOICE WAS THAT OF PRESIDENT SADAT IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH US CONGRESSMEN RECENTLY OR THE ARAB REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UN. HE DESCRIBED THE LONGER (SYRIAN) DRAFT RESOLUTION AS EXTREME AND THE SHORTER (EGYPTIAN) DRAFT RESOLUTION AS DESIGNED TO ABOLISH THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE AND TO CONVENE ANOTHER CONFERENCE WITH DIFFERENT GROUND RULES. HERZOG CONCLUDED STATING THAT

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ISRAEL IS WILLING AND PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE PEACE; HE APPEALED TO THE GA TO TEST ISRAEL AND TO PASS THE DRAFT RESOLUTION IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM.

5. SRI LANKA INTRODUCED DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/31/L.26 (SYRIAN) AND A/31/L.27 (EGYPTIAN) WHICH HAVE LIGHT AMENDMENTS FROM INFORMAL DRAFTS CIRCULATED EARLIER (USUN 5861). AMENDMENT IN L.26 CONSISTS OF DELETING PHRASE FROM PREAMBULAR PARA 3 "AND ISRAEL'S

POLICY OF EXPANSION AND AGGRESSION;" AMENDMENTS IN L.27 ARE IN OPERATIVE PARA 1(A) TO INSERT "ALL" BEFORE "THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT" AND TO DELETE "IMMEDIATELY" IN OPERATIVE PARA 3. CHANGE IN L.26 WAS SUGGESTED BY BELGIUM AND FRANCE; L.27 CHANGES WERE AT EGYPTIAN INITIATIVE.

6. REMAINING AFTERNOON SPEAKERS PLOWED FAMILIAR GROUND WITH RELATIVELY BALANCED AND CONSTRUCTIVE STATEMENTS BY ROMANIA, JAPAN, AND LEBANON. LEBANON PERMREP SPOKE OF MISSED OPPORTUNITIES IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE SEARCH; HE QUOTED STATEMENTS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER, PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER, AND SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE AS INDICATING FIRM US INTEREST IN PURSUING PEACE EFFORTS IN MIDDLE EAST. LEBANESE AMB COMMENTED THAT LEBANON HAS BEEN A VICTIM OF MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT AND CALLED FOR ACCELERATED ACTION TO ACHIEVE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

7. REACTIONS TO DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ARE PRELIMINARY AND TENTATIVE AT THIS STAGE. FRANCE AND UK MISOFFS HAVE NOTED THAT EC-9 MAY REACH AGREEMENT IN DEC 7 CONSULTATIONS TO ABSTAIN ON EGYPTIAN AMENDMENTS AND ISRAELI DRAFT RESOLUTION WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS. NINE WILL PROBABLY SPLIT ON SYRIAN RESOLUTION (A/31/L.26) WITH ITALY, IRELAND, AND FRANCE ABSTAINING AND THE REMAINING SIX VOTING AGAINST; AND ALL WOULD SUPPORT EGYPTIAN DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/31/L.27). CANADIAN DEL ANTICIPATED CANADA WOULD ABSTAIN ON ISRAELI DRAFT RESOLUTION AS AMENDED AND ABSTAIN ON AMENDMENTS THEMSELVES, WHILE SUPPORTING EGYPTIAN RESOLUTION AND VOTING AGAINST SYRIAN RESOLUTION. ISRAELI MISOFF, IN REVIEWING POSSIBLE OPTIONS ON ISRAELI DRAFT RESOLUTION (WITHDRAW, SUBAMEND, OR LEAVE DRAFT WITH EGYPTIAN AMENDMENTS), IMPLIED THE LAST COURSE OF ACTION SEEMED MOST LIKELY AT THIS MOMENT.

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